

Personal Narrative Notes

Things to know and think about before you begin

Fill out a plot schematic to be sure you stay focused

Plan for a catharsis in your plot schematic

Choose a TONE that will help evoke that catharsis

1st person point of view ("I")

Written in past tense

Has ONE plot

Is about ONE memory

Must be believable

Must be organized in paragraphs

DO NOT ANNOUNCE ANYTHING!

Paragraphing

Opening Paragraph

- DO NOT REGURGITATE THE PROMPT!

- optional, since your story should start in the middle of some sort of action.

- if you do an opening paragraph, start with dialog or an intense description of a scene. Then hint at or prophesize about the lesson you learned from the experience you will share in the essay.

DO NOT ANNOUNCE ANYTHING!

Body Paragraphs

Just remember your rules of paragraphing

- each time a new character speaks

- when time has passed

- when the setting has changed

Closing Paragraph

- Needs to reconnect with the prompt

- Needs to connect to a lesson that was learned from the experience

Hat Tricks

- grandiloquent vocabulary

- use dialogue to show intense moments or further characterization

- use adverbs, adverbial phrases, adjectival phrases, and prepositional phrases in your conversational tags

- 'said' is dead!

- use sensory detail, well used figurative language (don't make a silly, out-of-place desperate reach)

- evoke a catharsis (make them laugh or make them cry- make them do something!)

- connect the lesson learned in the last paragraph to a Universal Theme

PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD! PROOFREAD!

